

forest lands accounts for almost seventy-three (73%) percent of total land area in the county. The Nantahala National Forest has extensive holdings of forest land in the county. Cropland and pastures account for nine (9%) percent of land area. Recreation uses occupy some twelve (12%) percent of the total area.

The number of farms in Jackson County has decreased since 1964, along with the average size. However, most of the people are remaining outside the towns. For this reason the farm population has been decreasing, while the rural nonfarm population has been increasing. This trend is expected to continue.

Much of the land of Jackson County remains undeveloped. Vacant land is found in all parts of the county. The largest area of undeveloped land is found in the eastern half of the county between N. C. 107 and Haywood County. Much of the land area is extremely mountainous and is covered with rocks and forest. For this reason much of the undeveloped land in the county is not suited to any extensive development. Other undeveloped land, along the western border next to Macon County, lies in Nantahala National Forest.

The last section of this report is concerned with the land development potential of Jackson County. Uses of the land have been studied in detail. The result is a proposed land use development plan for the county as determined by existing land uses.